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Subject: Ivan Drach

Source: X

Date: 5 Oct. 1966

*C. J. ... 21, 7 OCT
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The meeting took place at the United Nations, during the intermission of the meeting of the Third Committee. No one else was present.

Arrests

Drach himself started this topic, by asking, "Well, what are the people here talking about these days?" He was told that the news of the deplorable arrests in Ukraine ~~xxx~~ is the most recent main topic.

Drach nodded his head, then said that this was a very serious business. When X asked him why there are no protests in Ukraine, as was the case with Synyavsky-Daniel trials Dr. said that it wasn't really so; much has been ~~done~~ that isn't known abroad. "I can tell you this to you, because I know. I was quite deeply involved in the action personally."

X asked about Korotych, Why doesn't he, a member of CC Komsomol, not do something to help those imprisoned.

Drach: "Maybe he's done something already."

He said the persons who were arrested were accused of spreading anti-Soviet propaganda.

X: "Then it's the same thing ^{as that} used against Synyavsky and Daniel."

D: "Yes, only in our Criminal Code that article has a different number, but it says the same thing."

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Later, over a beer at the Delegates' Lounge Drach asked whether X knows Oksana Smishkevych. "Well," he said, "you might say she was responsible for the arrests." He explained that when she was in Kiev she presented piles of books to a lot of people. One such book Vyvid prav Ukrainy was photographed and hundreds of copies made of its contents. These were spread around and later became evidence at the trials.

When X protested that Vyvid prav is nothing but historic Ukrainian documents, Drach said it was not the only thing that was being disseminated. "Some things written in Ukraine were much worse: everything from criticisms of the Constitution to calls for armed rebellion and cutting of throats."

Then he asked: "Now tell me, what would you do in such a case. I want you to tell me what you think. What would you do if you were the authorities. Would you just let things go?"

X admitted the thing seemed serious, and asked, "but did not the people who did this realize what they were doing?"

D: "Some did, and some did not."

He then brought up Karavansky as one example of the accused. He said Karavansky had been with the German SS in Western Ukraine, then managed to cross the line into the Soviet territory. After WWII he was tried and sentenced to 25 years. During the general amnesty in the 1950s he was released and told that on wrong move on his part, and he goes right back. "Well, he made his move, and was shipped back, at once."

Dr.

Dr. Malanchuk, Secretary of Lviv Obkom

X told Drach he expected something would blow up after reading an article by Malanchuk in Pravda about a year ago.

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D: "That's the most obnoxious person I know, I can't stand the sight of him. He's horrible."

X: "But he's an intellectual, a doctor of sciences."

D: "That doesn't make him a good person. It doesn't matter what degrees he has. You don't know him. He's horrible."

X: "That's very bad, since he's a boss in Lviv Oblast."

D: "Well I can tell you, that he won't be a boss there very long. He'll be removed. And another thing I can tell you -- but it is not for publication in Suchasnist -- his Pravda article was not well received by our own, Ukrainian Central Committee. There was a meeting about it and the CC criticized the article."

A Publication

Drach asked whether the Ukrainian Round Table has a newspaper. He was told it doesn't, that it's not such an easy thing to do -- publishing a newspaper, but that the Club members certainly have publications that publish them, such as Suchasnist, Novy Shliakh, Ukrainske Zhyttia. Then he rather ineptly started to sell the idea of a publication in which "we -- communists and some of the emigres: Burghardt, Rubchak, you could publish their fine literature or articles."

X said he did not see a possibility for such publication tomorrow or the day after, but in five years from now, who knows? "For example -- ^{did} ten, or even five years ago one certainly ~~wasn't~~ not expect to see a Drach at the UN. And today Drach is here." Then X said that Wira Wowk has

submitted some of her poetry in Ukraine, and they have never been published yet.

Drach replied that this is a separate story. Her poems had been already set in type for publication in Zhovten. "My own poems were supposed to go there too, but when Bratun was removed as editor of Zhovten, the poems were removed also." And he laughed.

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VinKranovsky

Drach said he is now in Kiev making a film at the Dovzhenko Studio -- his first film as the producer and director -- which will be called something like "Bereh spodiven'" or "Bereh nadiy". "I should not say this, because Mykola is my friend, but I know the film won't come off. He is not taking the thing seriously enough. Film making is mysticism plus very strong reality. Mykola has limitless mysticism, but a realist he is not."

Paradzhanov

He is a Tiflis Armenian -- a special breed of people, who even have their own literature. His mother is Georgian and father -- Armenian. Paradzhanov is a fickle person, like a woman, although he is talented nonetheless. But it is wrong to say that Paradzhanov made the film "Shadows". It was made by him, by Ilyenko and by Yakutovych, plus Kotsyubynsky, plus the Carpathian Mountains.

Ilyenko

He is a Siberian of Ukrainian descent. Recently he lived in Moscow and married a Russian girl. "But now he's ours. He still can't speak Ukrainian, but that is no criterion in this case. He's ours." Drach said he is a great man, who worked like a slave on the film "Shadows." But he's not to be confused with Yevtushenko (also a Siberian). ~~But~~ Yevtushenko is more a Jew.

About Drach

He is married to a native of Lviv, Marichka, who was born in 1944. At present she is a student. Drach often visits Lviv with his son Maxym, because the boy's grandmother lives there.

He would like to publish a full volume of poetry all about the woman -- something like his erotic pieces in the last volume "Protuberanci sertsya". He has enough poems to fill the book, but plans are not working out as yet.

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Drach said he wanted to meet Prof. Shevelov, and asked X whether he knows Orysi Sheparovych. He hinted that he would like to see her, if it's possible. He does not want to see Oksana Smishkevych, however.

At the UN he is bored. To fill the time he works on poetry, and is jazzing up a new script by Ilyenko.

X gave him two issues of Suchasnist: one with an article by M. Lebed, the other with an article on Korotych. Drach promptly put them inside his folder.

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